



CAPE FEAR Skies

Monthly Newsletter

Cape Fear Astronomical Society

Serving Wilmington, NC and Surrounding Areas

Cape Fear Astronomical Society is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



January 2023

President's Report

by Ben Steelman

First off, we owe a standing ovation to outgoing president Jon Stewart-Taylor.

Members of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society had daydreamed for four decades about having a deep-sky observatory site out in the country. (It even dates back to when we were just the Cape Fear Astronomy Club.) Jon made it happen -- with a lot of help -- on his watch. Very importantly, Kathleen has given us a free lease on land on their farm. Now, at Starfields, we have a site where we can mount our 'scopes, lock up some of our gear and meet with friends. It's a giant leap for stargazers.

Jon also oversaw a major rewrite of our club constitution and bylaws, after having played a major role in updating our incorporation as a non-profit. This was a lot of hard but useful donkey work.

We learned (or at least I learned) a lot about the night sky, thanks to Jon's monthly "On the Meridian" features. Plus, he led the push for useful new member packets.

Jon will still be a club officer, but I hope he gets a little well-earned rest.

Meanwhile, we have a lot to look forward to in 2023. Venus and Mars will be just 20 minutes apart on Jan. 22, and a lunar occultation of Mars will be visible in our area on Jan. 31.

There's at least a remote chance that Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) might be visible to the naked eye in February, although its brightest magnitudes will be closest to the Sun.

And anybody up for a road trip: An annular solar eclipse will be visible over much of Utah, New Mexico and west Texas on Oct. 14.

As always, I urge you to think about putting together a program for our monthly meetings. And encourage friends to turn out.

In the words of the late, great Jack Horkheimer, keep looking up!



Calendar

January 2023

Date – Event – Time

03 Quadrantid Meteors: ZHR 110; Waxing gibbous Moon

06 Full Moon

08 ★ Cape Fear Astro Monthly Meeting ★

CFAS Monthly Meeting - 7:00pm – 9:00pm

212 DeLoach Hall; UNCW

Also simulcast via Zoom

**13 Club Observing @ Starfields (the Club Observatory);
5:00 PM; 3rd Quarter Moon**

**14 Club Observing @ Starfields (the Club Observatory);
5:00 PM; 3rd Quarter Moon**

15 Last Quarter Moon

**20 Club Observing @ Starfields (the Club Observatory);
5:00 PM; New Moon**

**21 Club Observing @ Starfields (the Club Observatory);
5:00 PM; New Moon**

21 New Moon

28 First Quarter Moon

30 Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation; 25 degrees from the Sun. Look just before sunrise.

2023 Public Events

Watch this space for 2023 Public Events. If you haven't done one before, perhaps make a New Year resolution to try on – you might like it!

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Usual meeting dates – watch emails for exceptions

Phenomena: First Wednesday

Both Eyes: Second Tuesday

Telescope Usage: Third Tuesday

New Astronomer: Third Wednesday

Outreach: Fourth Tuesday



Two holes are visible in the rock, nicknamed “Rochette,” from which NASA’s **Perseverance Rover** obtained its first core samples. The rover drilled the hole on the left, called “Montagnac,” Sept. 7, 2021, and the hole on the right, known as “Montdenier,” Sept. 1. Below it is a round spot the rover abraded.

Kat Gets Another AL Award!

Astronomical League 2022 Globular Cluster Challenge

This Certificate is awarded to:

Kathy Stewart
Barnard Astronomical Society

For successful observation of at least
12 Globular Clusters on the 2022
Globular Cluster Challenge List

Clifton Mygatt

Globular Cluster Challenge Coordinator

Carroll Gerg

Astronomical League President

A Bit About the AL's Observing Programs

by Karl Adlon

The link for Special Observing Awards is here:

<https://www.astroleague.org/content/al-observing-challenge-special-observing-award>

The Observing Program overview is here:

<https://www.astroleague.org/observing.html>

"Standard" Observing Program list is here:

<https://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/AlphabeticObservingClubs.html>

And below is a small portion of the list of Astronomical League observing programs.



Active Galactic Nuclei Observing Program



Advanced Binocular Double Star Observing Program



Advanced Observer Award

no pin AL Observing Challenge Certificates



Alternate Constellations Observing Program



Analemma Observing Program



Arp Peculiar Galaxies Northern Observing Program



Arp Peculiar Galaxies Southern Observing Program

As I see it, there are 2 things here to consider.

- 1) If you want awards for aspects of observing you are interested in, this is the location!
- 2) Even if you are not interested in the piece of paper, this is a good resource to help your observing, including how and what to document, even for your own future use to remember what you saw or did. -Karl

2023 CFAS Officers

President: Ben Steelman
Vice-Pres: Brendan O'Byrne
Associate VP: Jon Stewart-Taylor
Secretary: George Pappayliou
Treasurer: Bill Cooper
ALCor: Hank Lyon

Dues

Dues: Dues for 2023 are \$25 for Individual and \$32 for Family Membership. Students dues are \$5 per year. If you wish to mail dues: Mail to: CFAS, P.O. Box 7685, Wilmington, NC 28406

January Meeting Program

For the January Meeting, Jon will be doing a presentation called "Constellation Pathfinders". It will show how to use easy-to-identify star patterns to locate constellations.

The Sword of Orion



This image from NASA's **Spitzer Space Telescope** shows the Orion nebula, our closest massive star-making factory, 1,450 light-years from Earth. The nebula is close enough to appear to the naked eye as a fuzzy star in the sword of the constellation. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Univ. of Toledo

A Long, Long Time Ago
In a Town Far, Far Away

Akron, Ohio, the city I was born in, has the Astronomy Club of Akron. From them I stole the below list of events.

ACA_News_2022-12

January Astronomical Events

Date	EST (h:m)	Event
01	15:25	Moon at Ascending Node
02	20:00	Mercury at Perihelion
03	01:24	Pleiades 2.6°N of Moon
03	19:35	Mars 0.5°N of Moon: Occn.
04	03:00	Quadrantid Meteor Shower
04	16:00	Earth at Perihelion: 0.98329 AU
06	23:08	FULL MOON
07	13:00	Mercury at Inferior Conj
07	13:40	Pollux 1.9°N of Moon
08	09:19	Moon at Apogee: 406459 km
14	21:59	Spica 3.9°S of Moon
15	02:10	LAST QUARTER MOON
16	06:32	Moon at Descending Node
18	09:32	Antares 2.1°S of Moon
20	12:00	Jupiter at Perihelion: 4.95101 AU
21	20:53	NEW MOON
21	20:58	Moon at Perigee: 356570 km
22	22:00	Venus 0.3°S of Saturn
23	07:22	Saturn 3.8°N of Moon
23	08:20	Venus 3.5°N of Moon
26	02:00	Jupiter 1.8°N of Moon
28	15:19	FIRST QUARTER MOON
28	16:05	Moon at Ascending Node
30	06:00	Mercury at Grtst Elong: 25.0°W
30	07:21	Pleiades 2.4°N of Moon
31	04:24	Mars 0.1°N of Moon: Occn.

Sky events almanac courtesy of Fred Espanak,
www.AstroPixels.com



Get to Know YOUR Astronomical League



The Astronomical League (Astroleague or AL) is one of the largest amateur astronomical organizations in the world. The organization serves to encourage an interest in astronomy (especially amateur astronomy) and promote the science of astronomy by:

- ✓ fostering astronomical education;
- ✓ providing incentives for astronomical observation and research;
- ✓ assisting communication among amateur astronomical societies.

CFAS is one of over 300 member societies affiliated with the Astroleague. Your membership in CFAS allows you take full advantage of this relationship so periodically review the information below to see how the Astroleague can support your astronomical interests and endeavors.

AL Home Page	www.astroleague.org
AL Observing Programs List	https://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/AlphabeticObservingClubs.html
What's Up Doc? (Monthly Guide for AL Obs Pgms)	http://humbleisd.net/Page/81224
Current Astroleague Bylaws (Please see News Bites below)	https://www.astroleague.org/al/bylaws/Z2_2007_Bylaws_and_SR.pdf
Astroleague Store	https://store.astroleague.org/
Current and Past Issues of <i>Reflector Magazine</i>	https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/april-2022-reflector-magazine
CFAS ALCor	Hank Lyon, hlyon8448@gmail.com
AL News Bites and Reminders	<p>Changes to AL Bylaws Up for Vote! Up for our club vote by March 31, 2023 are many changes to the AL Bylaws. These changes will be circulated in early January via Groups.io so please be on the lookout. In the interim, please review the current Bylaws via the link above.</p> <p>If you've provided a mailing address to CFAS, please remember that your quarterly <i>Reflector</i> magazine will arrive via US Mail unless you specify the digital/email version.</p>

The Astroleague Correspondent (or ALCor) is your link between CFAS and the Astroleague. Don't hesitate to contact your ALCor if you need assistance with anything Astroleague related whether its general information or detailed coordination of observing program completions for certification. Check back here each month to see any new links, postings or reminders.

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CFAS Correspondence:

Please contact the society at: CFAS, P.O. Box 7685, Wilmington, NC 28406

Members are welcome and encouraged to submit articles or other input for "CAPE FEAR SKIES". Submit any and all interesting items for publication to Karl Adlon, Editor (email kmja79@yahoo.com).

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Contact Us:

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